

Introduced by Senator Alpert

February 21, 2003

An act to amend Section 64201 of the Education Code, relating to education.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 712, as introduced, Alpert. Quality Education Model: school funding.

Existing law establishes the California Quality Education Commission for the purpose of developing, evaluating, validating, and refining a Quality Education Model for prekindergarten through grade 12, inclusive. Under existing law, the commission is required to develop complete descriptions of prototype schools, at least one for each of the 3 levels of elementary and secondary education, to form models that fairly capture the diversity of public schools in California.

This bill would additionally require the commission to determine an adequate base funding amount for each of the 3 prototype schools and to recommend funding adjustments to allow schools that meet certain criteria to receive additional funding beyond the base funding amount. The bill would limit the funding adjustments to a district characteristic adjustment and a pupil characteristic adjustment, as specified. The bill would also require the commission to establish a category of grants to be known as initiatives that would be limited in duration and serve one of 2 specified purposes.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.



The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 64201 of the Education Code is amended to read:

64201. (a) The California Quality Education Commission is hereby established, to become operative on July 1, 2003, for the purpose of developing, evaluating, validating, and refining a ~~quality education model~~ *Quality Education Model* for prekindergarten through grade 12, *inclusive*, to provide state policymakers with adequate tools to enable them to establish the reasonable costs of schools, and the best direct available resources so that the vast majority of pupils ~~can~~ *may* meet academic performance standards established by the state. The work of the commission shall serve to implement the principles and direction described in the final report of the Joint Committee to Develop a Master Plan for Education, and shall identify the educational components, educational resources, and corresponding costs necessary to provide the opportunity for a quality education to every pupil.

(b) (1) The commission shall be composed of 13 members, who shall be representative of the diversity of the state population, and shall include:

(A) Leaders from business and education.

(B) Representatives of elementary schools, middle schools, and high schools.

(C) Representatives of urban districts, suburban districts, and rural districts.

(D) Representatives of the research community with experience in educational policy and best practices.

(2) Except for the first appointments to the Quality Education Commission, a member shall serve a four-year term. A person may not be appointed to serve more than two consecutive terms. The first terms of the members first appointed to the Quality Education Commission shall be as follows:

(A) Three shall serve a term expiring August 1, 2005.

(B) Five shall serve a term expiring August 1, 2006.

(C) Five shall serve a term expiring August 1, 2007.

(3) The commission members shall be appointed as follows:

(A) Seven members shall be appointed by the Governor and approved by the Senate. Of the seven members appointed by the

1 Governor and approved by the Senate, one shall be a currently
2 employed public school teacher, one shall be a currently employed
3 public school administrator, and one shall be a current public
4 school board member. The terms of these members first appointed
5 shall be staggered so that the terms of two members shall expire
6 on August 1, 2005, the terms of two members shall expire on
7 August 1, 2006, and the terms of three members shall expire on
8 August 1, 2007.

9 (B) Two members shall be appointed by the Senate ~~Rules~~
10 *Committee on Rules*. The terms of these members first appointed
11 shall be staggered so that the term of one member shall expire on
12 August 1, 2006, and the term of the other shall expire on August
13 1, 2007.

14 (C) Two members shall be appointed by the Speaker of the
15 Assembly. The terms of these members first appointed shall be
16 staggered so that the term of one member shall expire on August
17 1, 2006, and the term of the other shall expire on August 1, 2007.

18 (D) Two members shall be appointed by the Superintendent of
19 Public Instruction. The terms of these members first appointed
20 shall be staggered so that the term of one member shall expire on
21 August 1, 2005, and the term of the other shall expire on August
22 1, 2006.

23 (4) (A) The commission, by majority vote of all its sitting
24 members, shall elect its own chairperson from among its sitting
25 members.

26 (B) The commission shall appoint an executive director, who
27 shall be exempt from the ~~provisions of the~~ State Civil Service Act,
28 and may in its discretion remove him or her by a majority vote of
29 all its members. The executive director shall be the secretary to the
30 commission and the commission's chief executive officer. The
31 executive director shall receive the salary that the commission
32 determines, and, subject to appropriations, other prerequisites that
33 the commission determines.

34 (C) Pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 11126 of the
35 Government Code, the commission may hold closed sessions
36 when considering matters relating to the recruitment,
37 appointment, employment, or removal of the executive director.
38 Decisions made during a closed session of the commission related
39 to the recruitment, appointment, employment, or removal of the

1 executive director shall be made known at the next public meeting
2 of the commission.

3 (5) (A) A vacancy on the commission shall be filled within 30
4 days by the appointing power that appointed the prior holder of the
5 position. An appointment to fill a vacancy shall be for the
6 remaining portion of the term of the member whom the appointee
7 succeeds. A vacancy may not impair the right of the remaining
8 sitting members to exercise all of the powers of the commission.

9 (B) A majority of the sitting members of the commission
10 constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business.

11 (C) “Sitting member” means an individual who has been
12 appointed and is currently serving on the Quality Education
13 Commission.

14 (c) The commission shall do all of the following:

15 (1) Identify key issues to address in developing, evaluating,
16 validating, and refining the Quality Education Model. The
17 commission shall develop complete descriptions of prototype
18 schools, at least one for each of the three levels of elementary and
19 secondary education, to form models that fairly capture the
20 diversity of public schools in California. ~~The commission also~~
21 ~~shall determine which school characteristics, including~~
22 ~~demographics, should be considered, and which additional cost~~
23 ~~elements may be required to compose prototype schools most~~
24 ~~likely to produce high quality outcomes.~~

25 (2) *Determine an adequate base funding amount for each of the*
26 *three prototype schools.*

27 (3) *Recommend funding adjustments to allow schools that meet*
28 *certain criteria to receive additional funding beyond the base*
29 *funding amount. The funding adjustments shall be limited to both*
30 *of the following:*

31 (A) *A district characteristic adjustment that focuses on the*
32 *extraordinary needs of certain schools due to their geographic*
33 *locations, including transportation needs and weather challenges.*

34 (B) *A pupil characteristic adjustment that is limited to the*
35 *following three areas:*

36 (i) *Special education programs.*

37 (ii) *Services for English language learners who have been*
38 *enrolled in California public schools for less than five years.*

39 (iii) *Programs for low-income pupils.*

1 (4) *Establish a category of grants to be known as initiatives that*
2 *shall be limited in duration and serve either of the following*
3 *purposes:*

4 (A) *To pilot and evaluate a proposed new program at one or two*
5 *schools prior to implementing the program statewide.*

6 (B) *To meet a school's immediate but temporary needs for*
7 *additional funding to mitigate the effects of an unforeseen*
8 *short-term problem faced by the school.*

9 (5) Focus on practical alternatives that are achievable within
10 the minimum funding requirements for school districts and
11 community college districts imposed by Section 8 of Article XVI
12 of the California Constitution.

13 ~~(3)~~

14 (6) Solicit comments, criticisms, and suggestions from
15 professional educators, education administrators, and education
16 policy experts relative to the elements of the Quality Education
17 Model. The commission shall consult expert panels for advice
18 relating to research-based, best practices most associated with
19 high pupil achievement.

20 ~~(4)~~

21 (7) Solicit public comments, criticisms, and suggestions
22 relative to the elements of the Quality Education Model. The
23 commission shall provide the public with information sufficient to
24 enable interested members of the public to understand the process
25 being used to evaluate, validate, and refine the Quality Education
26 Model, and the reasonable choices or options under consideration.
27 The commission shall provide the public with information
28 explaining the criteria and models chosen and the basis for those
29 choices.

30 ~~(5)~~

31 (8) Rely upon the most accurate available cost data, cost
32 estimation methods, and reasonable and expert assumptions in
33 those instances in which data are lacking. The commission shall
34 identify data gaps, modeling assumptions, and recommendations
35 for near-term and long-term improvement of the model.

36 ~~(6)~~

37 (9) Deliver a report, comprised of the prototype models and the
38 commission's findings and recommendations, to the Governor and
39 Legislature no later than 12 months after the commission first
40 convenes. The report shall include recommendations for any

1 statutory changes to conform the existing school finance structure
2 to the Quality Education Model proposed in the report.

3 (d) The commission ~~established by this section~~ shall, upon
4 delivery of the report, continue as a standing commission, its
5 members serving staggered terms, with the following
6 responsibilities:

7 (1) To test the Quality Education Model's reliability, by
8 evaluating the accuracy of the cost elements and assessing whether
9 moneys are actually used to desired effects.

10 (2) To refine the means with which to account for missing
11 elements, including intangible factors or quality indicators that
12 affect ~~student~~ *pupil* achievement and for which data are not readily
13 available.

14 (3) To identify the Quality Education Model's assumptions,
15 assess the validity of those assumptions, and improve their
16 accuracy, especially by finding those resources and methods that
17 successful schools embody.

18 (4) To develop the capacity to estimate and forecast such
19 factors as the cost of the Quality Education Model's
20 implementation given model refinement, the growth of applicable
21 revenues, the pace of implementation, and the effects of the model
22 on ~~student~~ *pupil* performance.

23 (5) To make recommendations for improvements in the state's
24 data-gathering systems.

